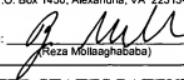




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 5, 2004

Signature: 
(Reza Mollasghababa)

Docket No.: 101361-0043
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Robert P. Dolan et al.

Application No.: 09/884,451

Filed: June 19, 2001

Art Unit: 2823

For: SIMOX USING CONTROLLED WATER
VAPOR FOR OXYGEN IMPLANTS

Examiner: Maldonado, Julio J.

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.114

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action issued on October 3, 2003, Applicants file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) together with this response to place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Amendments to claims begin on Page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on Page 6 of this response.

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